

ELIGIBILITY SPECIALISTS

Thirty-four Eligibility Specialists and four Eligibility Specialist Supervisors are distributed throughout the state to determine the eligibility of all children in Alternative Care for various federal programs. Eligibility Specialists assess eligibility for financial and medical care through federal and state programs for children in the custody of the Department of Social Services (CD and DYS), and the Juvenile Court. Responsibilities include federal program determinations and re-determinations, applications for disability programs, monitoring children's outside income, intensive work within the DSS, with the Family Support and Children's Divisions, other state agencies, such as Child Support Enforcement, DYS and Legal Services, outside agencies and professionals and the Juvenile Court (Juvenile Officers, Attorneys and Judges). Eligibility Specialist (ES) staff determine Federal Title IV-E initial eligibility as well as re-determine ongoing eligibility for the program annually.

ES staff also determines Medicaid eligibility annually for the CD, DYS, and Juvenile Court children and clarify Medicaid eligibility requirements to hospitals, physicians, and therapists, as needed. Eligibility Specialists are responsible for completing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications for appropriate children. In this regard, it is necessary for them to work with Social Security, Legal Services, hospitals, psychiatrists, physicians, and therapists to complete applications and prepare witnesses, as needed, for eligibility hearings. ES staff engages in various training efforts for the Juvenile Courts and Social Services staff in relation to the requirements and purposes of federal programs such as Title IV-E, SSI and Medicaid. Their work is vital to the ongoing receipt of federal funding for the Missouri Department of Social Services.